

February 11, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Lakehead District School Board is committed to the success and well-being of every student. Our commitment to seeking high levels of academic excellence and personal success for students is balanced with our responsibility for the efficient and effective management of school facilities in order to ensure the continued financial viability of the school board.

Administration presented an initial staff report to trustees at the February 9, 2016 Standing Committee. The report detailed a proposed school renewal plan that presents an opportunity to renew and refresh our facilities. The school renewal plan proposes a vision for the future that is based on:

- academic excellence, personal success and well-being for every student;
- safe, equitable and inclusive school communities;
- cutting-edge technology in every classroom; and
- significant investments in learning environments and facilities.

The initial staff report recommends the initiation of a pupil accommodation review and the establishment of two Accommodation Review Committees (ARCs) to gather input and feedback for the North Side and South Side Renewal Plans. The pupil accommodation review process is conducted in accordance with the recently revised Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and the Lakehead District School Board Pupil Accommodation Review Policy 9010.

South Side Renewal Plan

- Transition to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 model in the elementary panel.
- Close Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Renovate and update Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute to receive all south side secondary students in September 2017.
- Close Agnew H. Johnston Public School and Edgewater Park Public School. Construct a new elementary school on the Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute site to accommodate students from the closing schools in September 2018.

North Side Renewal Plan

- Transition to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 model in the elementary panel.

Stakeholder input for the North Side Renewal Plan will be gathered for the following two options:

Option 1

- Close Hammarskjold High School. Construct an addition at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute to receive all north side secondary students in September 2017.
- Close C.D. Howe Public School and St. James Public School. Renovate and construct an addition at Vance Chapman Public School to receive students from the closing schools in September 2017.

Option 2

- Close Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Renovate and update Hammarskjold High School to receive all north side secondary students in September 2017.
- Close C.D. Howe Public School, St. James Public School and Vance Chapman Public School. Renovate Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute into an elementary school to receive students from the three closing schools in September 2018.

Hyde Park/Kingsway Park Renewal Plans

- Renovate and construct an addition, which includes a full-sized gymnasium, at Kingsway Park Public School to accommodate students from Hyde Park Public School and Kingsway Park Public School in one building in September 2017.

The Lakehead District School Board will consider the recommendations contained in the Initial Staff Report at a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. We will continue to keep our families informed throughout the process. Please check our website regularly for updates at www.lakeheadschoools.ca. Questions regarding the pupil accommodation review process may be sent to info@lakeheadschoools.ca and your school administrator will also be happy to address any questions you may have. Our families are our most important partners, and we value your input and feedback as we work together in the best interests of our students.

Sincerely,



Ian MacRae
Director of Education